



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 72

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5318

House of Representatives, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFERING OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES FROM THE STATE MOTOR POOL TO QUALIFIED VETERANS' CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4a-57a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2018*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall administer a
5 property distribution program for the disposition of usable property
6 that a state agency deems surplus to its operating needs. If any such
7 property cannot be transferred between state agencies and there is not
8 an immediate need to remove the property from a state facility, the
9 commissioner shall offer the property for sale to municipalities and
10 transit districts. If no municipality or transit district purchases the
11 property, the commissioner shall offer the property for sale to the
12 public, except that any motor vehicle from the state interagency motor
13 pool, as described in section 4a-5, shall not be sold to any qualified

14 veterans' charitable organization, as described in section 27-100f, for
15 less than two thousand dollars. If the commissioner is unable to sell
16 the property to a municipality or transit district or the public, the
17 commissioner may donate the property to a nonprofit organization.
18 The commissioner may dispose of any property that is not transferred,
19 sold or donated, except that, in the case of any motor vehicle from the
20 state interagency motor pool not transferred, sold or donated, the
21 commissioner may offer such motor vehicle to any qualified veterans'
22 charitable organization for the purpose of donating such motor vehicle
23 to a veteran in accordance with section 2 of this act. The commissioner
24 shall establish a process for notifying municipalities and nonprofit
25 organizations of their eligibility to receive surplus property under this
26 subsection.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) The Commissioner of
28 Administrative Services may offer, pursuant to section 4a-57a of the
29 general statutes, as amended by this act, for not more than two
30 thousand dollars, a motor vehicle from the state interagency motor
31 pool, as described in section 4a-5 of the general statutes, to a qualified
32 veterans' charitable organization, as described in section 27-100f of the
33 general statutes, for the purpose of donating such motor vehicle to a
34 veteran. Any such qualified veterans' charitable organization shall (1)
35 identify veterans in the state (A) who have performed service in time
36 of war, (B) with a service-connected disability rated by the United
37 States Department of Veterans Affairs, and (C) with a demonstrated
38 need of financial assistance, as determined by such organization, (2)
39 donate any such motor vehicle to any such veteran, and (3) in the case
40 of any such veteran who accepts any such donation, pay any
41 administrative cost or fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles related
42 to the transfer of any such motor vehicle from such organization to
43 such veteran. As used in this section, "veteran" has the same meaning
44 as provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2018	4a-57a(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2018	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, "qualified" was inserted before "veterans' charitable organization" for accuracy; in Sec. 2, "qualified" was inserted before "veterans' charitable organization" for accuracy; and title was changed.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows Department of Administrative Services (DAS), under certain conditions, to sell vehicles from the state motor pool to veterans' charitable organizations for up to \$2,000.

When a state vehicle has reached its useful life cycle it enters the state property distribution program for surplus. Vehicles are offered first to state agencies for purchase, then to municipalities, if the vehicle is still not claimed it is released for auction to the public. If a state vehicle is not sold after these three steps, DAS will be allowed to auction the vehicles to veterans' charitable organizations.

This bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact as the majority of state vehicles are sold at auction.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5318*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFERING OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES FROM THE STATE MOTOR POOL TO QUALIFIED VETERANS' CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires qualified veteran's charitable organizations to donate, to eligible veterans, surplus vehicles they purchase for less than \$2,000 through the Department of Administrative Service's (DAS) property distribution program. This takes place only after a number of required steps in DAS' existing property distribution program (see below).

Specifically, the bill:

1. sets a minimum price of \$2,000 for any vehicle the DAS commissioner sells to a qualified veteran's charitable organization at a public auction (see step 2 below);
2. allows the commissioner, if she does not transfer, sell, or donate the vehicle (see step 3 below), to sell it to a qualified veteran's charitable organization for a maximum of \$2,000; and
3. requires the qualified veteran's charitable organization, regarding any vehicle it purchases from DAS for less than \$2,000, to donate the vehicle to an eligible veteran it identifies and pay the Department of Motor Vehicle costs and fees associated with the transfer of ownership.

Under the bill, an eligible veteran is a disabled wartime veteran in Connecticut who the qualified veteran's charitable organization determines is in need of financial assistance.

Under the bill, a qualified veteran's charitable organization is not required to donate to veterans, vehicles it (1) purchases from DAS at a public auction or (2) receives from DAS as a donation. (The bill does not prevent the commissioner from donating a vehicle to a veterans' charitable organization at the point when the law first allows it (see step 3 below). As such, it appears the bill's new donation requirements can be bypassed.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

By law, the DAS commissioner administers a property distribution program, a multi-step process (described below) for disposing of usable surplus agency property, including motor vehicles, between state agencies.

Under current law, the steps of the process are as follows:

1. If no state agency claims the property, DAS must offer to sell it to municipalities and transit districts.
2. If no municipality or transit district purchases it, DAS must offer to sell it at public auction.
3. If DAS cannot transfer or sell the vehicle, it may donate it to a nonprofit organization.

DEFINITIONS

Veterans

A "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged from or released under honorable conditions from active service in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component, including the National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions)(CGS § 27-103).

Qualified Veterans Organization

A "qualified veterans' charitable organization" is one that: (1) holds

itself out to be established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, patriotic, social welfare, or advocacy purpose relating to or on behalf of veterans; and (2) has been a Connecticut nonstock corporation for three or more years or a 501(c) tax exempt organization for three or more consecutive years. The Veterans Affairs Department maintains and publishes a list of qualified veterans' charitable organizations (CGS § 27-100f).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)